S.H.I.E.L.D.

12¢ IND. | 10 MAR

NICK FURY, AGENT OF... S.H.I.E.L.D.

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

Tired of Being 'SKINNY'?

DRINK ON POUNDS OF WEIGHT FAST—THE FUN WAY!

GAINS OF UP TO A-POUND-A-DAY PROVEN BY THOUSANDS

IT'S DELICIOUS! IT'S WILD! The new taste-sensation "CRASH-WEIGHT GAINING PLAN" developed by Joe Weider, "Trainer of Champions", "Architect of Beauty" helps you drink on pounds... UP TO A POUND A DAY easily and enjoyably while you rest... relax... watch TV... sleep. Men, women and children... see measurable gains instantly and say goodbye to your skinny, undesirable string-bean body... NOW!

BEFORE AFTER

HERE'S LIVING PROOF IT WORKS—FAST

Used with amazing results by tens of thousands of men, women and children for more than 7 years! Now, you too can take this guaranteed way to build up your caloric intake for fast and substantial weight gains!

BEFORE AFTER

GAINS 18 LBS. IN 14 DAYS!

The "before" photo shows how Larry Chamiel looked without the added weight he needed so badly. The "after" photo shows Larry 14 days after he started the **Crash-Weight Plan** and gained 18 pounds. He writes: "What more could a guy ask for? All I did was add 4 glasses of Crash Weight Formula #7 to my regular meals, follow Joe Weider's Plan and I gained a tremendous 18 pounds in two weeks!"

SHOULDN'T THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

GAINS 14 LBS. IN 14 DAYS!

James Parker of Ft. Worth, Texas writes: "It's Fantastic—I went from 158 to 172 pounds in 14 days. Gained 14 pounds in 14 days and added 2 inches to my chest. I'm more than satisfied!"

SHOULDN'T THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

DO-IT-YOUR-SELF GAIN-A-POUND-A-DAY KIT!

This is a 1-day supply of **Crash-Weight**, chock full of weight-gaining nutrients that can smash the weight-gaining barrier!

You want to gain a pound a day? Half a pound a day? Maybe you just want to add a few pounds here and there? You want it easily . . . enjoyably . . . without stuffing yourself and counting calories?

NOW YOU CAN

It's simply wild... AND IT WORKS!

You too can follow this amazing Crash-Weight Formula #7 Plan and drink on as much as a pound a day . . . Skinny people are undesirable . . . they look sickly. Say goodbye to your string-bean looks with this sensational new plan—NOW!

No more bloating yourself with rich, heavy foods to force-feed calories into your system. Drink 4 delicious glasses of natural-organic Crash-Weight Formula #7 daily in addition to your regular meals. Follow Crash Weight Plan as directed in the free booklet and you can drink on (in delicious, milk-shake tasting form) mixed with usual household food ingredients, up to 3500 calories along with your regular calorie intake. Then, take it easy . . . while you relax, snooze or watch TV . . . this calorie-packed weight-training drink and the Formula #7 Plan does all the work, piling on weight for you.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE COUPON

JOE WEIDER Dept. 83-29K4
531-32nd Street
Union City, N. J. 07087

Dear Joe:

I want to join the WEIGHT-GAINABLES. Enclosed find $..... for your **Crash Weight Formula #7 Plan** which I have checked below. I understand your Money Back Guarantee applies only if I order my Plan through this coupon!

Check one of the Plans below:

☐ 7-Day Supply of Crash Weight #7 Plan ..... **$ 7.50**

☐ 14-Day Supply of Crash Weight #7 Plan **$14.98**

Check flavor desired: ☐ Chocolate ☐ Vanilla

NAME ..... **AGE**.....

ADDRESS .....

CITY..... **STATE**..... **ZIP**.....

(Please print clearly)

IT'S NEW! IT'S HERE! JOIN THE WEIGHT GAINABLES! DRINK ON POUNDS-FAST! SAFELY!

'Twas the NIGHT before Christmas

AND ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE, NOT A CREATURE WAS STIRRING--EXCEPT

• STAN LEE, *editor* • GARY FRIEDRICH, *writer* •
• FRANK SPRINGER, *penciller* • JOHNNY CRAIG, *inker* •
• ARTIE SIMEK, *letterer* •

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD is published by MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT CO. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022. Published monthly. Copyright ©1968 by Magazine Management Co., Marvel Comics Group, all rights reserved, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 10, March, 1969 issue. Price 12¢ per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead preson or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press, Inc., Sparta, Illinois 62286. Subscription rate $1.75 and $2.25 Canada for 12 issues including postage. Foreign subscriptions $3.25.

DECEMBER 24, 1968--AS A HEAVY BLANKET OF SNOW ENVELOPES NEW YORK CITY, MOST OF ITS EIGHT MILLION INHABITANTS BASK IN THE ALL-CONSUMING WARMTH OF THE YULETIDE--AS THEY PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE GREATEST CHRISTIAN HOLIDAY OF ALL IN THE COMPANY OF THOSE THEY HOLD NEAR AND DEAR...
..BUT FOR SOME, SUCH AS NICK FURY, THE COMING HOLIDAYS CAN HOLD ONLY THE EMPTY VOID LEFT BY A TRAGIC PAST--AND MEN SUCH AS HE CAN FIND STRENGTH ONLY IN WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR OTHERS...

SUDDENLY, THE CAROL-FILLED AIR IS PIERCED BY A DESPERATE SCREAM...
HELP!
WELL, LOOKIE WHAT'S COMIN'! HARV! WE DONE FOUND US A REAL LIVE SIR GALAHAD!
OH... PLEASE HELP ME! PLEASE!
DON'T SWEAT IT, LADY! I GOT MY RED CROSS BADGE IN LIFE-SAVIN'!
WHOK!
HE GOT LUKE! SMACK 'IM, DOLLY!
I'LL DO BETTER THAN THAT... I'LL SHOOT THE CREEP!
WHA...? FACE IT, FURY...WHEN IT COMES TO SUCKERS...
YOU'RE RIGHT UP THERE WITH SUGAR DADDY!

YOUR JOKES ARE DEAD, BABY--THE SAME STATE YOU'RE GONNA BE IN AS SOON AS I...HUH?!
SORRY TA DISAPPOINT YA, QUEENIE... BUT I DON'T PLAN TO SPEND THE HOLIDAYS IN A BOX!
KRAK!
YA STUPID DAME--YA SHOT LUKE!
I TOLD YA TO LEAVE THAT HEATER AT HOME! WE JUST WANTED TA MUG SOMEBODY!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT, HARV! I DIDN'T WANNA HURT ANYBODY!
I MUST'VE PANICKED... AND NOW I'VE KILLED LUKE!
SAVE THE SOBS, SISTER! I AIN'T DEAD YET--I JUST FEEL THAT WAY!
NOW...JUST A MINUTE, MISTER! WE DIDN'T MEAN NO HARM! WE WUZ JUST TRYIN' TO MAKE A BUCK... HONEST!
WELL, YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE ALONE IN THAT CONDITION, PAL...
...'CAUSE I GOT A LITTLE PRESENT FOR YER BUDDY HERE THAT'S GONNA MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE THE PICTURE'A HEALTH!
MAYBE YOU CALL MUGGIN' AN HONEST WAY TO EARN A LIVIN'--BUT I JUST CAN'T MAKE MYSELF SEE IT THAT WAY!
WOK!
3

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

SECRETS of Teaching Yourself MUSIC

You can learn any instrument in your home . . . in spare time

TEACH *yourself* music? Yes, you can — and you'll be amazed how easy it is! Piano, guitar, accordion, saxophone — any popular instrument — you can teach yourself to play it *right away*. It's all possible thanks to the remarkable home-study Course offered to you now by the famous U.S. School of Music.

You Learn Quickly, Easily

This superb Course shows you how to play your favorite music *by note*. You read and play actual sheet music. There are no "gimmicks" at all. And the incredible thing is that you learn so *quickly* and *easily*.

The secret of this rapid success is in the Course's unique, proven method of instruction. Simple, easy-to-understand instructions tell you what to do. Then, wonderfully clear pictures *show* you just how to do it. These lessons are so well-developed and effective, you actually *teach yourself!* It's so easy that even children can learn. And you don't need any special talent, or previous experience, or even special knowledge of music!

From the very first lesson you start playing actual tunes from sheet music. As you progress, you'll be playing more and more advanced pieces. Before you know it you'll be playing your favorite music as though you've known how all your life!

Convenient and Economical

You'll also be delighted to discover how *convenient* and *economical* this wonderful Course is. You learn at home, in your spare time. You go as fast or as slowly as you wish. There's no expensive private teacher to pay. You get valuable sheet music at no extra cost. And you learn for just pennies a day!

Start Enjoying a New Way of Life

Just imagine yourself playing your favorite instrument, and playing it *well*. What a thrill and sense of accomplishment you'll feel as you skillfully and confidently play popular hits . . . classical pieces . . . folk and country music . . . dance tunes — any kind of music you like! You'll enjoy a wonderful escape from the tensions and problems of everyday life. You'll win *new* friends and *new* popularity. Best of all, you'll have that warm, deep-down sense of satisfaction and self-fulfillment that comes with going ahead and really doing something you've always wanted to do!

MAIL COUPON TODAY

Don't go on missing the pleasures that playing music can bring into your life. Mail the coupon below right now for our FREE booklet that tells you all about the Course and shows you how *fast* and *easy* this unique instruction really is. We'll also send you a FREE Piano "Notefinder." No obligation. Just mail the coupon TODAY to:

U.S. SCHOOL OF MUSIC, Studio A1472, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. *Estab. 1898. Licensed by the New York State Education Department.*

Accredited Member National Home Study Council

Here's How Others Learned to Play This Fast, Easy Way!

EXCITED — DELIGHTED — "I'm so excited, thrilled and delighted with this magnificent Course that it's difficult to 'go slowly.' Instructions are easily understood. And I enjoy the fact that I can practice and study at my own time and speed."

Clara J. Napoleon
Trenton, N. J.

PLAYS FOLK MUSIC — "I have finished college, and my ability to play the guitar really paid off there, especially since folk music has become so popular. I have played both as lead guitarist and accompanist guitarist."

Dwight Bullard
Concord, Ark.

FRIENDS ARE ASTONISHED — "Ever since I signed up for the Piano Course, I have been reaping happiness. My friends are astonished and my family happy. I will never forget all the fun I've had."

Linda Kurtz
Airville, Pa.

U.S. SCHOOL OF MUSIC, Studio A1472,
Port Washington, New York 11050

Yes! I want to learn to play the instrument checked below. Please send me, FREE, your illustrated booklet "How You Can Learn To Play Music in Your Own Home" —*plus* your free Piano "Notefinder." I am under no *obligation*.

Check the instrument you would like to play (check one only):

☐ Piano	☐ Saxophone	☐ Cornet
☐ Guitar	☐ Violin	☐ Clarinet
☐ Accordion	☐ Tenor Banjo	☐ Ukulele
☐ Organ	☐ Mandolin	☐ Trombone
☐ Steel Guitar	☐ Trumpet	

Do you have instrument? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name.....
(Please Print Clearly)

Address.....

City .....

ZIP CODE ZONE NO

State.....

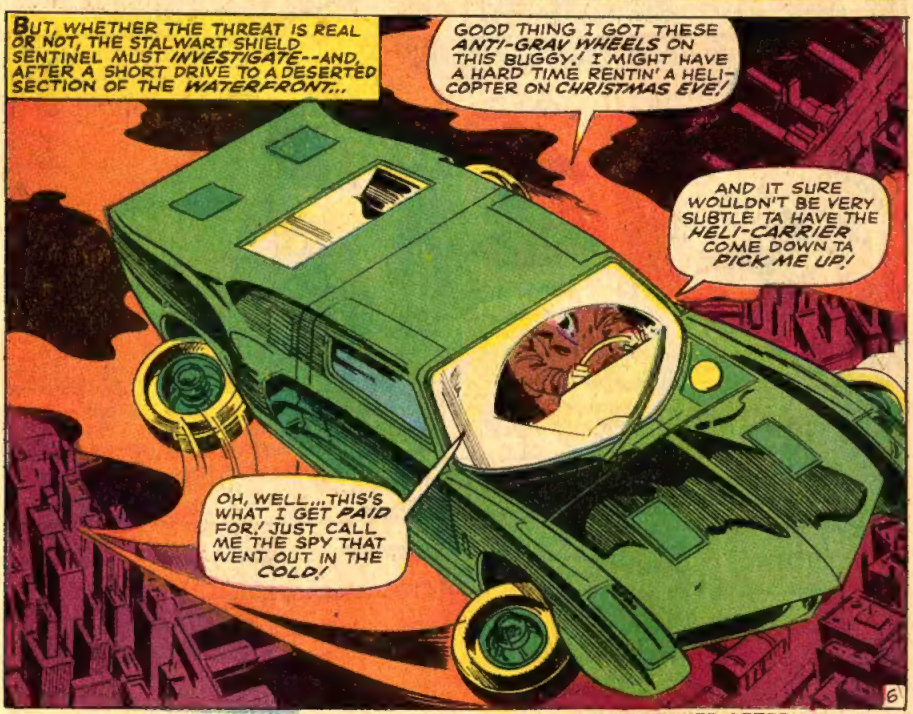
223 *Instruments, if needed, supplied to our students at reduced rates.*

I OUGHTTA CALL THE LAW AND LET YA SPEND CHRISTMAS IN THE CAN--BUT, SINCE I'M SO BIG-HEARTED...
...I'M GONNA HOPE I TAUGHT YOU A LESSON, AND SEND YA HOME TO YER MOMMAS--JUST SO YA DON'T MISS OUT ON SANTA CLAUS!
EVEN THOUGH I WOULDN'T BET ON 'IM PAYIN' A VISIT TO A BUNCH'A PUNKS LIKE YOU!
NOW GET PACKIN' OUTTA HERE--BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER AND STOP BEIN' MY LOVABLE GOOD-NATURED SELF!
OH, AND YA BETTER THINK TWICE BEFORE YA PUT THE ARM ON NICK FURY AGAIN!
FURY? LET'S SHAG! YA JUST DON'T MESS WITH JOKERS LIKE HIM!
AND, AS THE YOUNG THUGS DISAPPEAR INTO THE DAMP GREY TWILIGHT...
WELL, FURY--AT LEAST YOU'VE MADE SOMEBODY'S CHRISTMAS MERRIER--BY KEEPIN' 'EM FROM GETTIN' MUGGED!
DON'T LEAVE MUCH FOR ME, THOUGH! ALL I CAN DO IS GO HOME TO A COLD, EMPTY APARTMENT!
WHILE THE REST'A THE WORLD'S LIVIN' IT UP, ALL THERE IS FOR ME TO DO IS GO HOME AND WATCH TV...ALONE!
IF IT WUZN'T FOR SEEIN' THOSE KIDS EYES ALL LIT UP, THIS CHRISTMAS'D BE THE BIGGEST BUST YET!
AWWW, YOU'RE JUST FEELIN' SORRY FOR YOURSELF, FURY! IF EVEN ONE FAMILY CAN BE AS HAPPY AS THAT ONE IN THERE...
...IN TIMES LIKE THIS, THEN IT'S ALL GOTTA BE WORTHWHILE!
THEN, AFTER A LONG CAB RIDE ACROSS TOWN, NICK FURY FINALLY ARRIVES AT THE PLACE HE CALLS HOME...
I'LL JUST GO IN AND RACK OUT! AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP... THINGS'VE GOTTA LOOK BETTER!
GUESS WHO...?!
HUH...?! WITH HANDS LIKE THAT, IT'S JUST GOTTA BE... VAL!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HANDSOME!
LAURA... ERR, WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE? I MEAN...
WHAT YOU MEAN IS... YOU WERE EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE... BY THE NAME OF VAL!
NO... I MEAN, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT AT ALL!
WHAT I WAS TRYIN' TO SAY WAS THAT I WAS HOPIN' YOU'D DROP BY! NOW, HOW'S ABOUT A BIG HELLO KISS... THEN WE'LL GO INSIDE AND START CELEBRATIN'!
YOU SMOOTH DEVIL... YOU TALKED ME INTO IT!
THEN, A FEW RATHER ROMANTIC SECONDS LATER...
SO, SINCE NEITHER OF US HAS A FAMILY, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE SPENT THE HOLIDAY TOGETHER!
YOU KNOW IT, DOLL! NOW JUST SIT RIGHT THERE WHILE I PUT ON SINATRA'S CHRISTMAS ALBUM!
THAT OUGHTTA DO FOR STARTERS TO GET US INTO THE OLD SEASONAL SPIRIT!
MILES
THEN, I'LL GET A NICE, RIP-ROARIN' FIRE GOIN' IN THE OLD FIREPLACE...
...MIX US A COUPLE'A MY OWN SPECIAL RECIPE CHRISTMAS DAQUIRIS...
...DIM THE LIGHTS...
...AND WE'LL BE ALL SET FOR THE BEST CHRISTMAS I'VE HAD IN A LONG TIME!
HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS...
HERE'S TO THE SEASON... AND TO US... AND TO THE FACT THAT THIS IS ONE CHRISTMAS THAT I AINT GONNA HAVE TO SPEND ON DUTY!
BUT, AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, IN THE ADJOINING BEDROOM...
ATTENTION, COLONEL FURY! ATTENTION, COLONEL FURY! CONDITION RED... REPEAT, CONDITION RED! PLEASE REPORT IMMEDIATELY!
5

WHAT IN BLAZES DO YOU WANT?
DON'T TELL ME YA SPOTTED A UFO BEIN' PULLED BY EIGHT TINY REINDEER!
NEGATIVE, SIR! WE'VE RECEIVED A TRANSMISSION FROM... THE HATE-MONGER!
WELL, WHY DIDN'T YA SAY SO? JUST HANG LOOSE AN' I'LL BE THERE IN A COUPLE'A MINUTES!
YOU AINT GONNA BELIEVE THIS, BABY--BUT UNCLE SAM'S JUST CALLED ME UP FOR OVERTIME!
SO JUST MAKE YER-SELF COMFORTABLE--AN IF SEAN CONNERY DON'T CALL FOR YA WHILE I'M GONE--I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

THEN, AFTER A RAPID FLIGHT DOWN EIGHTEEN FLOORS TO THE GARAGE...
THE HATE-MONGER, HUH? I THOUGHT WE FINISHED HIM OFF A MONTH AGO!
BARRRRAAAAAAAAAP!!
AND WE PROBABLY DID! THIS'S GOTTA BE SOME CRANK--JUST DYIN' TA SPOIL MY EVENIN'!

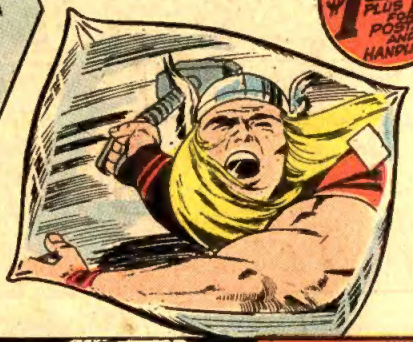

BUT, WHETHER THE THREAT IS REAL OR NOT, THE STALWART SHIELD SENTINEL MUST INVESTIGATE--AND, AFTER A SHORT DRIVE TO A DESERTED SECTION OF THE WATERFRONT...
GOOD THING I GOT THESE ANTI-GRAV WHEELS ON THIS BUGGY! I MIGHT HAVE A HARD TIME RENTIN' A HELI-COPTER ON CHRISTMAS EVE!
AND IT SURE WOULDN'T BE VERY SUBTLE TA HAVE THE HELI-CARRIER COME DOWN TA PICK ME UP!
OH, WELL...THIS'S WHAT I GET PAID FOR! JUST CALL ME THE SPY THAT WENT OUT IN THE COLD!
6

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

IT'S BRAND NEW!!
MARVEL'S SWINGIN' INFLATABLE
PLASTIC PILLOWS!

INTRODUCING THE LATEST, MOST ORIGINAL MARVEL MERCHANDISING MASTERPIECES EVER---THREE DIMENSIONAL SUPER-HERO PLASTIC PILLOWS THAT CAN HOLD MORE WEIGHT THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A FORBUSH AT! YOU CAN BANG 'EM! TOSS 'EM! EVEN LET 'EM **HANG LOOSE** ON THE WALL! ...EITHER **SPIDER-MAN** OR **THOR**, IN FULL COLOR YET!

$1.50 PLUS 15¢ FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING



I'D LIKE _____ SPIDER-MAN PILLOWS.
I'D LIKE _____ THOR PILLOWS.
TOTAL ➔ [ ]

SEND TO:
MARVEL COMICS GROUP, DEPT. P.P.
625 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. N.Y. 10022

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP _____ SEND NO CASH! CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY.

MARVEL SUPER-HERO T-SHIRTS

ONLY $2.00 EA. INCLUDING POSTAGE AND HANDLING. WRITE SIZE IN COUPON BELOW:
YOUTH - MEDIUM - LARGE
ADULT - SMALL - MEDIUM - LARGE

WE'VE ONLY GOT A **LIMITED SUPPLY**, FRANTIC ONES, SO RUSH YOUR ORDER IN NOW!

The MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP KIT!

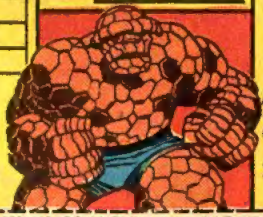
ALL NEW MEMBERSHIP KIT: AN OFFICIAL RECORDING OF M.M.M.S. SONG... SWINGIN' STICKERS OF EIGHT MARVEL HEROES ...A NUTTY NEW NOTE PAD...A MARVEL MINI-BOOK...A MARVEL PENCIL...AN M.M.M.S. CERTIFICATE...YOUR OWN MEMBERSHIP CARD... ***ALL FOR ONLY $1.00***

PRESENT MEMBERS: SEND US YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AND WE'LL SEND YOU NEW KIT FOR 75¢

T-SHIRTS	SIZE	QUANTITY
CAPT. MARVEL		
SPIDER-MAN		
THE HULK		
THOR		

TOTAL [$]

MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY KIT [$]



OKAY, MADMEN...HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED CASH, WHICH I'M SENDING YOU AT:
M.M.M.S. MARVEL COMICS GROUP DEPT A.J.
625 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. N.Y. 10022

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP _____ **PLEASE:** SEND NO CASH! CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY!

ADD 20¢ EXTRA FOR EACH CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN ORDER! ALLOW 3 TO 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY!

Second chance for high school drop-outs to get a diploma

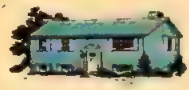
Now you can Finish High School at home

EARN A DIPLOMA IN YOUR SPARE TIME WITHOUT LOSING A DAY'S PAY

QUALIFY FOR A BETTER JOB HIGHER PAY • GREATER SECURITY

$75,000 extra income in a lifetime

U.S. Government figures show the average high school graduate earns $75,000 more than the non-graduate. Here's what you can do with the extra money:



Live in a home of your own in a fine neighborhood.

Drive a new car, provide other luxuries for your family.

Watch your savings account grow — enjoy real security.

HERE'S A NEW, easier way for anyone over 17 to finish high school at home — with just a few hours a week of spare-time study. You don't have to go back to school — school comes to you.

This new, streamlined program is offered by Academy for Home Study. It was planned especially for working men and women who need a diploma to get ahead and can't take time out to go back to classroom study. It offers these advantages:

- *Full Credit for Previous Schooling*
- *Simplified Lessons*
- *Very Little Writing*
- *True-False Multiple-Choice Tests*
- *Qualified Teachers*
- *Easy-to-Read Text Books*

A diploma means a lot today — in prestige and in cash, and in greater job opportunities—increased job security.

Get the Full Story—FREE

Send for Academy's FREE booklet. It tells you how you can finish high school at home. Low cost, easy terms. You will also receive *free* a valuable Government booklet with advice for drop-outs, and a self-scoring test of your general knowledge. You may discover you are much closer to completing high school than you imagined. Mail coupon below today. Academy, 425 South Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

ACADEMY FOR HOME STUDY

425 S. Dearborn, Dept. 86-903, Chicago, Illinois 60605

Please rush FREE booklet on how to finish high school at home, also free Government booklet and self-scoring test. No obligation.

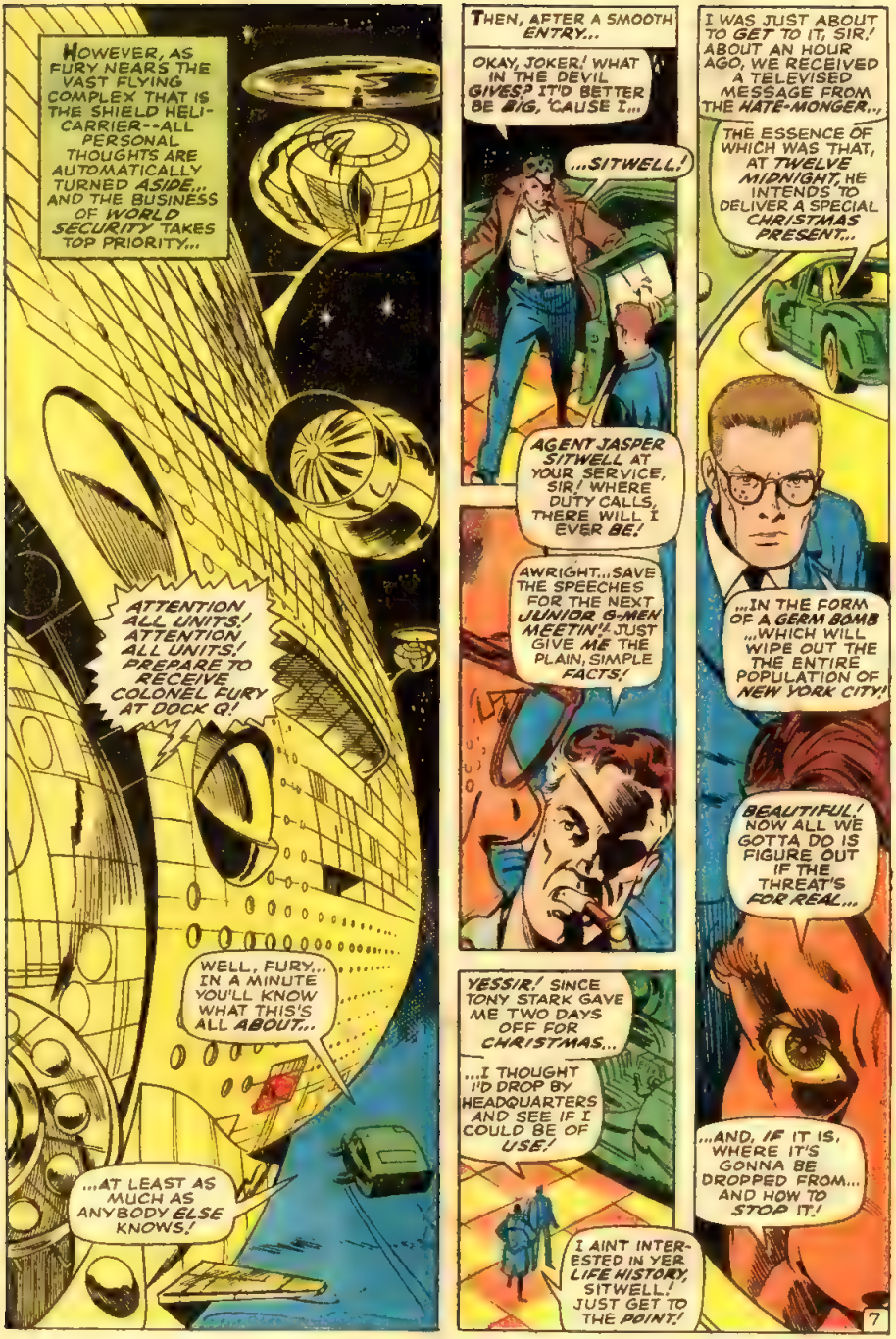
Name..... Age.....

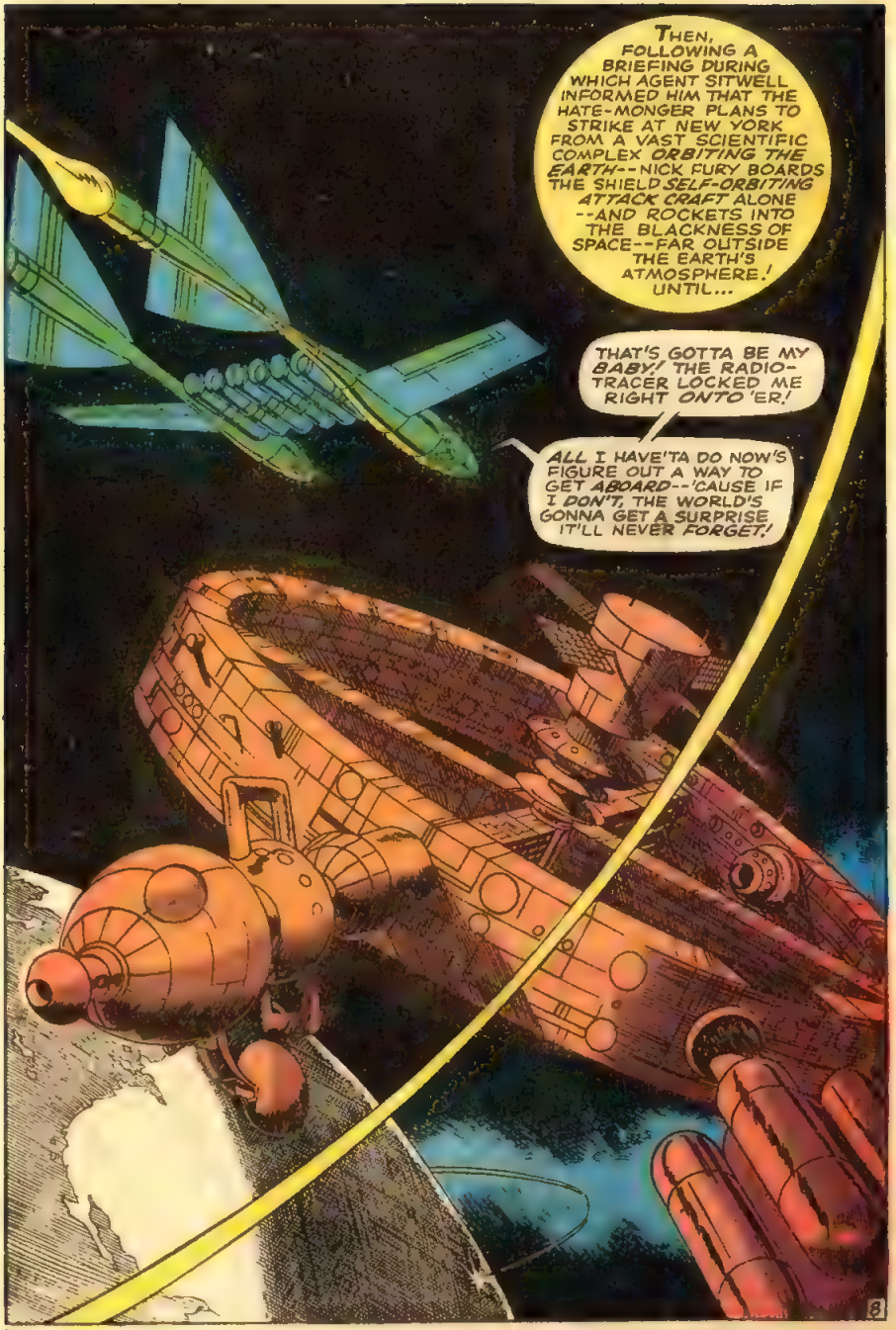
Address..... Apt. No..... County.....

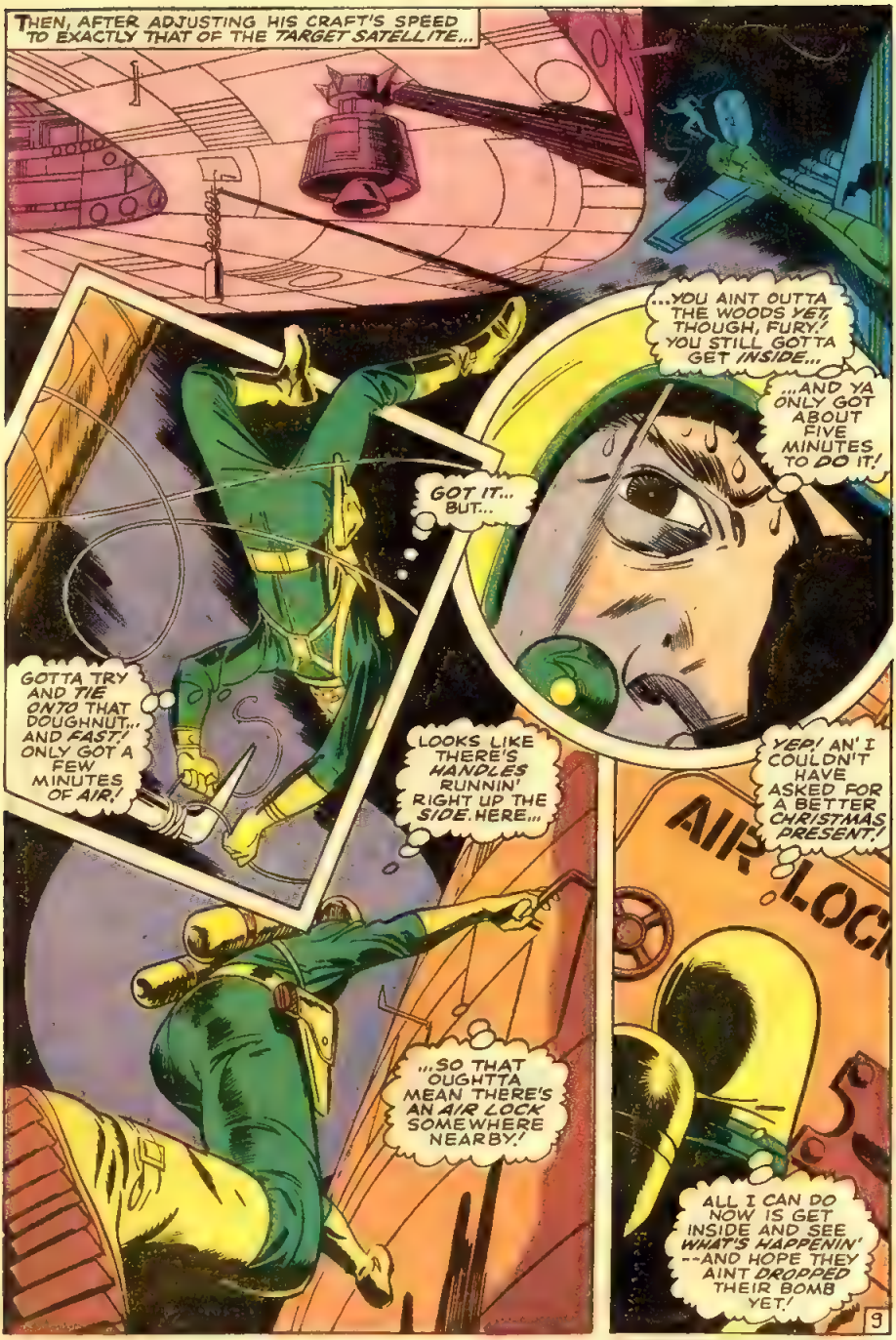
City & State..... Zip No.....

Accredited Member National Home Study Council

964


HOWEVER, AS FURY NEARS THE VAST FLYING COMPLEX THAT IS THE SHIELD HELI-CARRIER--ALL PERSONAL THOUGHTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY TURNED ASIDE... AND THE BUSINESS OF WORLD SECURITY TAKES TOP PRIORITY...
ATTENTION ALL UNITS! ATTENTION ALL UNITS! PREPARE TO RECEIVE COLONEL FURY AT DOCK Q!
WELL, FURY... IN A MINUTE YOU'LL KNOW WHAT THIS'S ALL ABOUT...
...AT LEAST AS MUCH AS ANYBODY ELSE KNOWS!
THEN, AFTER A SMOOTH ENTRY...
OKAY, JOKER! WHAT IN THE DEVIL GIVES? IT'D BETTER BE BIG, 'CAUSE I...
...SITWELL!
AGENT JASPER SITWELL AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR! WHERE DUTY CALLS, THERE WILL I EVER BE!
AWRIGHT... SAVE THE SPEECHES FOR THE NEXT JUNIOR G-MEN MEETIN'! JUST GIVE ME THE PLAIN, SIMPLE FACTS!
YESSIR! SINCE TONY STARK GAVE ME TWO DAYS OFF FOR CHRISTMAS...
...I THOUGHT I'D DROP BY HEADQUARTERS AND SEE IF I COULD BE OF USE!
I AINT INTERESTED IN YER LIFE HISTORY, SITWELL! JUST GET TO THE POINT!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GET TO IT, SIR! ABOUT AN HOUR AGO, WE RECEIVED A TELEVISED MESSAGE FROM THE HATE-MONGER...
THE ESSENCE OF WHICH WAS THAT, AT TWELVE MIDNIGHT, HE INTENDS TO DELIVER A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT...
...IN THE FORM OF A GERM BOMB ...WHICH WILL WIPE OUT THE THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF NEW YORK CITY!
BEAUTIFUL! NOW ALL WE GOTTA DO IS FIGURE OUT IF THE THREAT'S FOR REAL...
...AND, IF IT IS, WHERE IT'S GONNA BE DROPPED FROM... AND HOW TO STOP IT!
7


THEN, FOLLOWING A BRIEFING DURING WHICH AGENT SITWELL INFORMED HIM THAT THE HATE-MONGER PLANS TO STRIKE AT NEW YORK FROM A VAST SCIENTIFIC COMPLEX *ORBITING THE EARTH*--NICK FURY BOARDS THE SHIELD *SELF-ORBITING ATTACK CRAFT* ALONE --AND ROCKETS INTO THE BLACKNESS OF SPACE--FAR OUTSIDE THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE! UNTIL...
THAT'S GOTTA BE MY *BABY!* THE RADIO-TRACER LOCKED ME RIGHT *ONTO* 'ER!
ALL I HAVE'TA DO NOW'S FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET *ABOARD*--'CAUSE IF I *DON'T*, THE WORLD'S GONNA GET A SURPRISE IT'LL NEVER *FORGET!*


THEN, AFTER ADJUSTING HIS CRAFT'S SPEED TO EXACTLY THAT OF THE TARGET SATELLITE...
...YOU AINT OUTTA THE WOODS YET, THOUGH, FURY! YOU STILL GOTTA GET INSIDE...
...AND YA ONLY GOT ABOUT FIVE MINUTES TO DO IT!
GOT IT... BUT...
GOTTA TRY AND TIE ONTO THAT DOUGHNUT... AND FAST! ONLY GOT A FEW MINUTES OF AIR!
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S HANDLES RUNNIN' RIGHT UP THE SIDE HERE...
YEP! AN' I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER CHRISTMAS PRESENT!
AIR LOCK
...SO THAT OUGHTTA MEAN THERE'S AN AIR LOCK SOMEWHERE NEARBY!
ALL I CAN DO NOW IS GET INSIDE AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENIN' --AND HOPE THEY AINT DROPPED THEIR BOMB YET!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BOYS 12 or older Sell GRIT in your spare time

for CASH PROFITS and FREE PRIZES

Many of the more than 30,000 boys selling GRIT

MAKE $1 to $5 WEEKLY in a few hours

PRIZES
GRIT Salesman are Winning Regularly Include
WRIST WATCHES
RADIOS
MODELS
SPORTS EQUIPMENT
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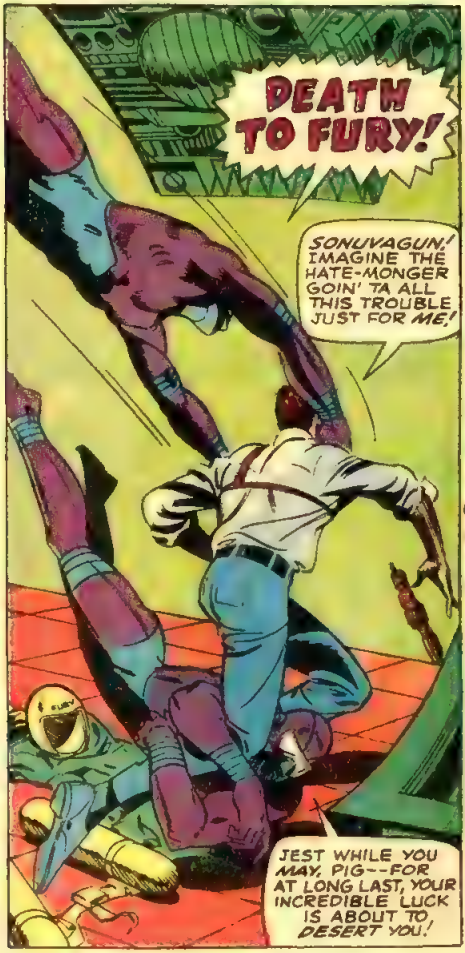
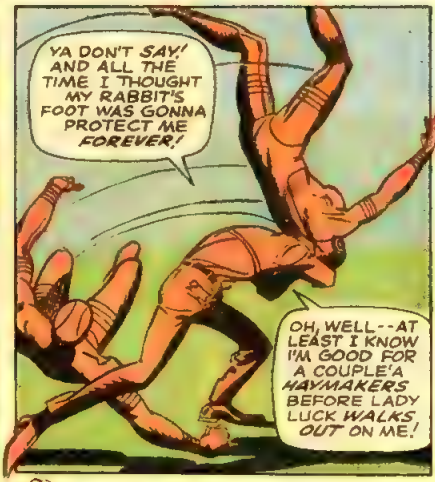
I FIGURE IT'S GOTTA BE AROUND 11:30 BY NOW--SO THAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST...

...IF I'M GONNA HAVE THE CHANCE OF A SNOWBALL ON THE FOURTH'A JULY OF STOPPIN' 'EM!

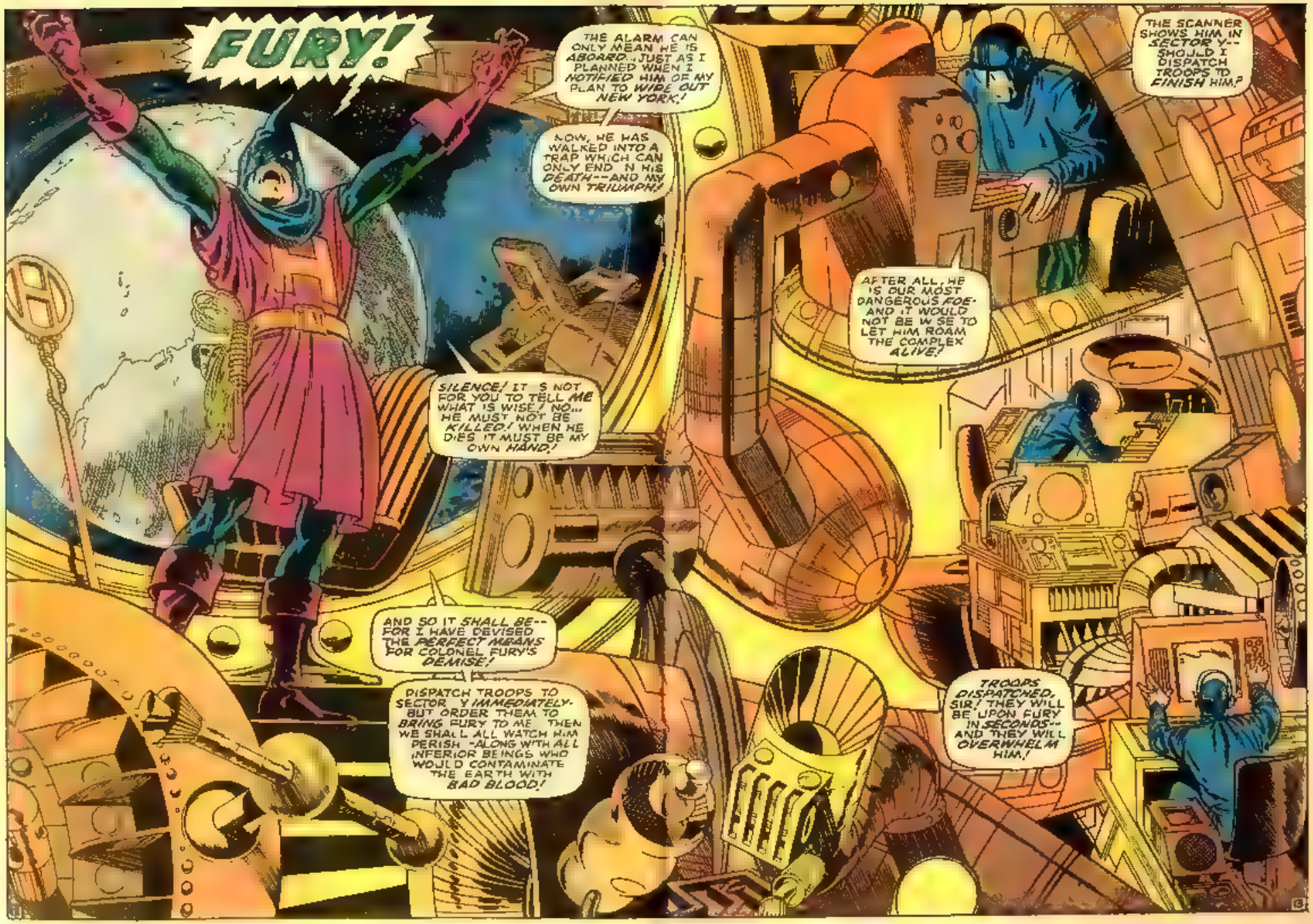
BUT, BEFORE I CAN DO ANYTHING, I GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS JUNIOR SPACEMAN GETUP!
I GOT A FEELIN' THERE'S A GREETING PARTY WAITIN' FOR ME...AND I WANNA BE DRESSED PROPER FOR 'EM!


DEATH TO FURY!
SONUVAGUN! IMAGINE THE HATE-MONGER GOIN' TA ALL THIS TROUBLE JUST FOR ME!
JEST WHILE YOU MAY, PIG--FOR AT LONG LAST, YOUR INCREDIBLE LUCK IS ABOUT TO DESERT YOU!


YA DON'T SAY! AND ALL THE TIME I THOUGHT MY RABBIT'S FOOT WAS GONNA PROTECT ME FOREVER!
OH, WELL--AT LEAST I KNOW I'M GOOD FOR A COUPLE'A HAYMAKERS BEFORE LADY LUCK WALKS OUT ON ME!

SO HERE'S TO YA, HERBIE! I CAN PRACTICALLY GUARANTEE YOU'RE GONNA SPEND A REAL RESTFUL NIGHT!
KRAK
I JUST WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR MYSELF!

BUT, SINCE I CAN'T...
...I MIGHT AS WELL GET YOU OUTTA MY WAY!
CAN'T STAND TO SEE SOMEBODY LOAFIN' WHILE I GOTTA WORK!
DON'T WANNA GET SLOWED DOWN LIKE THAT AGAIN! ONLY HAVE TWENTY MINUTES MORE!
C'MON, FURY... THINK! IF YOU DON'T FIND THE CONTROL ROOM IN TIME-- YOU'RE GONNA BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF TEN MILLION PEOPLE!
AND, IF YOU'RE GONNA CARRY SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT AROUND ON YER SHOULDERS...
...IT'D BETTER NOT BE BECAUSE YA STOOD AROUND THINKIN' WHEN YOU SHOULD'A BEEN DOIN'!
SO, WHAT'RE YA WAITIN' FOR... THERE'S NO TIME TO LOOK FOR THE NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK LIKE NOW!
FURY'S...GETTING AWAY! HE'S TOO CLOSE...TO LAUNCHING ROOM! MUST...STOP HIM!
HEAD...THROBBING, BUT CAN'T LET HIM...GET THROUGH! HE COULD... RUIN EVERYTHING!
ONLY HOPE... IS TO REACH ALARM BUTTON! RING FOR... REINFORCEMENTS!
THERE!
ALARM
WITH THAT, NICK FURY... YOU ARE DOOMED!
ARRRRRRRR
11


FURY!
THE ALARM CAN ONLY MEAN HE IS ABOARD...JUST AS I PLANNED WHEN I NOTIFIED HIM OF MY PLAN TO WIPE OUT NEW YORK!
NOW, HE HAS WALKED INTO A TRAP WHICH CAN ONLY END IN HIS DEATH--AND MY OWN TRIUMPH!
SILENCE! IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO TELL ME WHAT IS WISE! NO... HE MUST NOT BE KILLED! WHEN HE DIES IT MUST BE MY OWN HAND!
AND SO IT SHALL BE--FOR I HAVE DEVISED THE PERFECT MEANS FOR COLONEL FURY'S DEMISE!
DISPATCH TROOPS TO SECTOR Y IMMEDIATELY-BUT ORDER THEM TO BRING FURY TO ME. THEN WE SHALL ALL WATCH HIM PERISH -ALONG WITH ALL INFERIOR BEINGS WHO WOULD CONTAMINATE THE EARTH WITH BAD BLOOD!
THE SCANNER SHOWS HIM IN SECTOR Y--SHOULD I DISPATCH TROOPS TO FINISH HIM?
AFTER ALL, HE IS OUR MOST DANGEROUS FOE-AND IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO LET HIM ROAM THE COMPLEX ALIVE!
TROOPS DISPATCHED, SIR! THEY WILL BE UPON FURY IN SECONDS--AND THEY WILL OVERWHELM HIM!

AND, INDEED, AN INSTANT LATER...
SWARM OVER HIM! HE MUST BE TAKEN BY SHEER FORCE OF NUMBER--AND HE MUST BE TAKEN ALIVE!
YOU'RE ALL HEART, GENERAL...
...BUT I HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I PLAY FOR KEEPS!
-AAAAGGGGHHH!-
ZAPT!
-AARRRGGGHH!- ...MY ARM! WRIST FEELS LIKE...IT'S BEIN' SNAPPED OFF!
SURRENDER... OR I PROMISE YOU IT WILL BE!
HURRY...APPLY MORE PRESSURE... UNTIL HE GIVES UP!
GUESS AGAIN, MUSCLES! BESIDES, I DON'T EVEN HAVE A TOWEL TO THROW IN!
BUT I GOTTA GIVE YOU CRUMBS CREDIT FOR ONE THING-- THREE OF YOU HAVE GOT TO BE ALMOST AS GOOD AS ONE SHIELD AGENT!
14

CORRECTION! IT ONLY TAKES ONE OF US... WITH A WEAPON!
WHOK
-UUUNNNHHH!-
WELL DONE-- ALTHOUGH I MUST CONFESS I WAS ANXIOUS FOR A FEW MOMENTS!
WE GOT 'IM, DIDN'T WE? THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS! NOW LET'S GET 'IM TO THE HATE-MONGER!
THEN, FOLLOWING A TRIUMPHANT TRIP THROUGH THE ORBITING FORTRESS'S SOLEMN STEEL CORRIDORS...
HERE HE IS, SIR...THE GREAT NICK FURY...OUT LIKE A LIGHT AND HELPLESS AS A KITTEN!
I AM PLEASED! ONCE MORE THE SUPERIORITY OF MY PEOPLE HAS BEEN PROVEN!
AND NOW FURY WILL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF MY GREATEST PROOF TO ALL MANKIND...
...THAT, ONLY IN THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL INFERIOR RACES, CAN THE SALVATION OF EARTH BE REALIZED!
15

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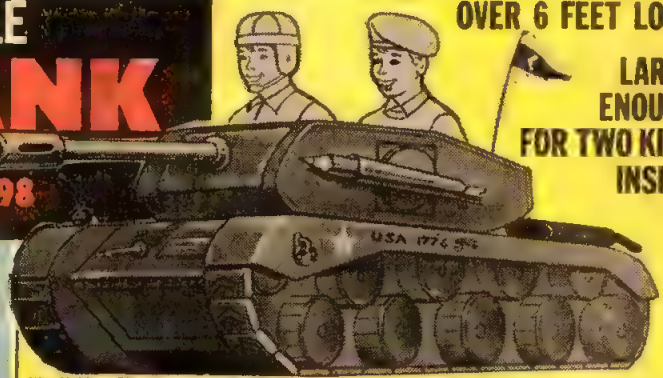

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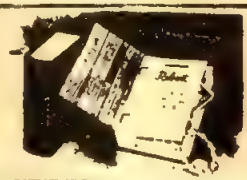

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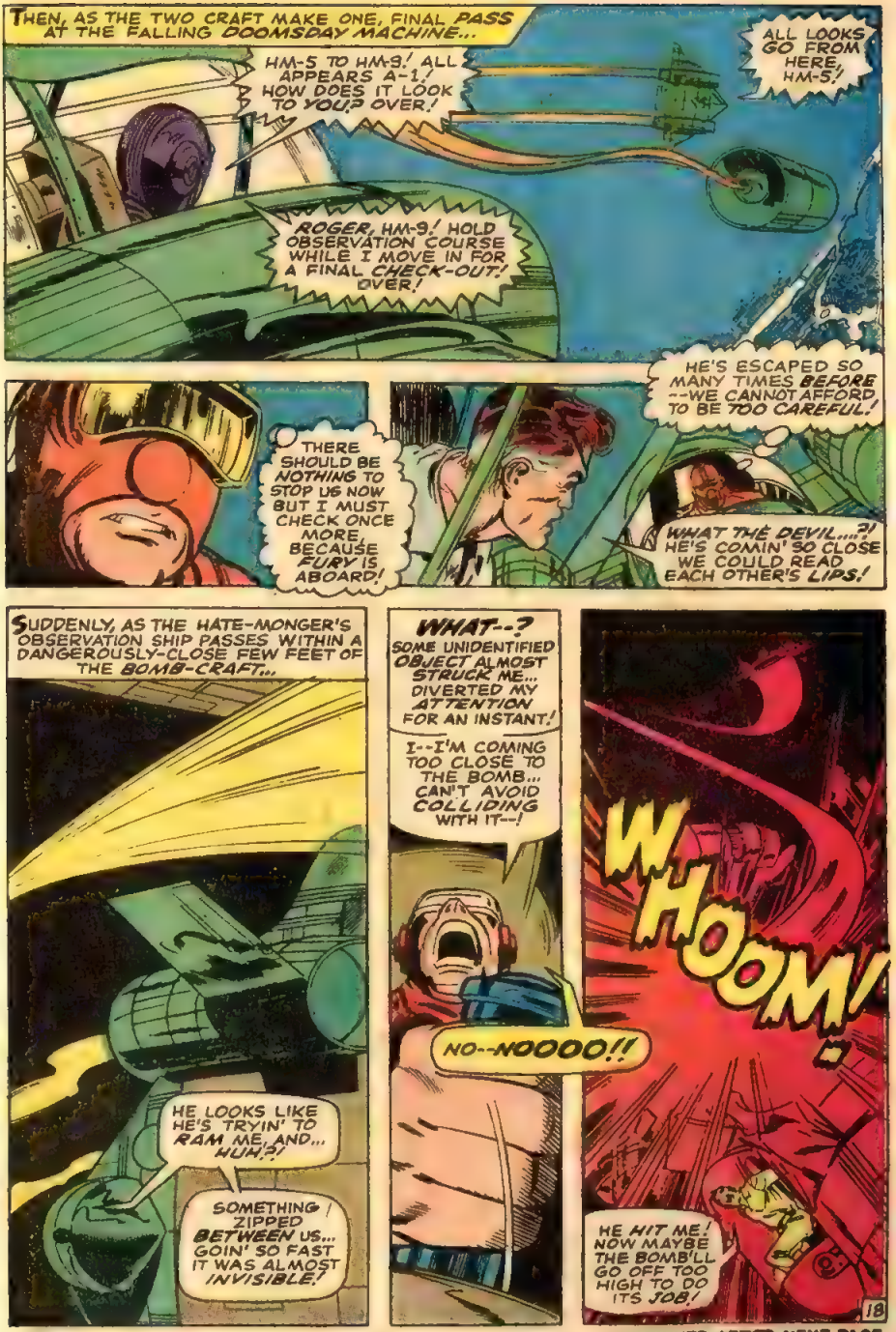
PREPARE FURY FOR HIS FINAL MISSION--WHILE I SAVOR THIS GREAT MOMENT OF GLORY...
...THE MOMENT WHICH WILL MAKE ME THE TRUE SAVIOR OF ALL MANKIND!
FOR, BY ELIMINATING ALL THE WORLD'S INFERIOR PEOPLES, BLACK, YELLOW, AND WHITE--I WILL PRESERVE A WORLD OF PEACEFUL SUPERIORITY FOR THE MASTER RACE!
THE OBLITERATION OF NEW YORK'S POPULACE WILL SET ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD AGAINST EACH OTHER...
...AND THE RESULTING NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST WILL PURGE EARTH OF ALL LIVING BEINGS--SAVE THOSE OF MY NEW COLONY WHO SAFELY ORBIT THE EARTH IN MY SATELLITE!
THEN, WHEN THE FALLOUT HAS CLEARED, WE WILL RETURN TO OUR PLANET--AND ESTABLISH A NEW POPULATION...
...WHICH WILL LEAD EARTH TO THE GREAT DESTINY FOR WHICH IT WAS INTENDED!
AND NOW, AS THE CLOCK REACHES MIDNIGHT, I WILL PULL THIS LEVER AND SEND NICK FURY ON HIS WAY...
ABOARD THE CRAFT WHICH WILL EXPLODE JUST ABOVE NEW YORK CITY--AND SPELL THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR THE MADNESS WHICH IS EARTH UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE INFERIOR!

NOW, FURY... ON YOUR WAY!
...AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
THEN, IN A DEAFENING ROAR LIKE A THOUSAND CANNONS, THE DEADLY CRAFT BLASTS OFF FROM ITS ORBITING LAUNCHING PAD...
...ROCKETING TOWARD ITS FATEFUL RENDEZVOUS AS THE FIRST WEAPON EVER LAUNCHED AGAINST MANKIND FROM OUTER SPACE!
THIS'S GOTTA BE THE BIG WRAP-UP, FURY! YOUR LUCK HAS FINALLY RUN OUT!
WE MUST BE BUSTIN' BACK INTO THE ATMOSPHERE NOW--AND, IF THE HEAT DON'T GET YA,...THE EXPLOSION OF THIS BOMB WILL!
AND, AS THE CRAFT WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR MANNED-FLIGHT HURTLES THROUGH THE BLAZING INFERNO THAT IS RE-ENTRY TO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...
NOTHIN BUT WHITE-HOT FLAME ALL AROUND ME--BUT I SEEM TO BE WEATHERIN' IT OKAY!
I SHOULD'A KNOWN THAT IF THIS HUNK'A TIN WAS BUILT TO BRING A BOMB THROUGH THE HEAT SHIELD...
...IT'D BRING ME THROUGH IT, TOO!
BUT, AS THE MISSILE PLUMMETS ON TOWARD ITS COLLISION COURSE WITH EARTH...
...IT IS CAREFULLY FOLLOWED BY TWO TRACKING CRAFT, WHOSE DUTY IT IS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE LETHAL GERM-BOMB REACHES ITS TARGET...
HM-5 TO HM-9! MISSILE ON COURSE AT 25,000 FEET! PREPARE TO CIRCLE AT PRESENT ALTITUDE UNTIL DETONATION!
CHECK, HM-5! IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, THE MARKING OF DECEMBER 25, AS A DATE OF NEW LIFE... WILL BE CHANGED TO ONE OF DEATH!


THEN, AS THE TWO CRAFT MAKE ONE, FINAL PASS AT THE FALLING DOOMSDAY MACHINE...
HM-5 TO HM-9! ALL APPEARS A-1! HOW DOES IT LOOK TO YOU? OVER!
ALL LOOKS GO FROM HERE, HM-5!
ROGER, HM-9! HOLD OBSERVATION COURSE WHILE I MOVE IN FOR A FINAL CHECK-OUT! OVER!
THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING TO STOP US NOW BUT I MUST CHECK ONCE MORE, BECAUSE FURY IS ABOARD!
HE'S ESCAPED SO MANY TIMES BEFORE --WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE TOO CAREFUL!
WHAT THE DEVIL...?! HE'S COMIN' SO CLOSE WE COULD READ EACH OTHER'S LIPS!
SUDDENLY, AS THE HATE-MONGER'S OBSERVATION SHIP PASSES WITHIN A DANGEROUSLY-CLOSE FEW FEET OF THE BOMB-CRAFT...
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S TRYIN' TO RAM ME, AND... HUH?!
SOMETHING ZIPPED BETWEEN US... GOIN' SO FAST IT WAS ALMOST INVISIBLE!
WHAT--? SOME UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT ALMOST STRUCK ME... DIVERTED MY ATTENTION FOR AN INSTANT!
I--I'M COMING TOO CLOSE TO THE BOMB... CAN'T AVOID COLLIDING WITH IT--!
NO--NOOOO!!
WHOOM!
HE HIT ME! NOW MAYBE THE BOMB'LL GO OFF TOO HIGH TO DO ITS JOB!
18

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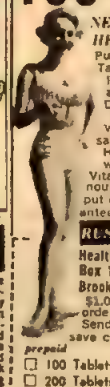

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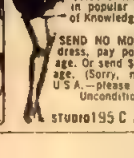

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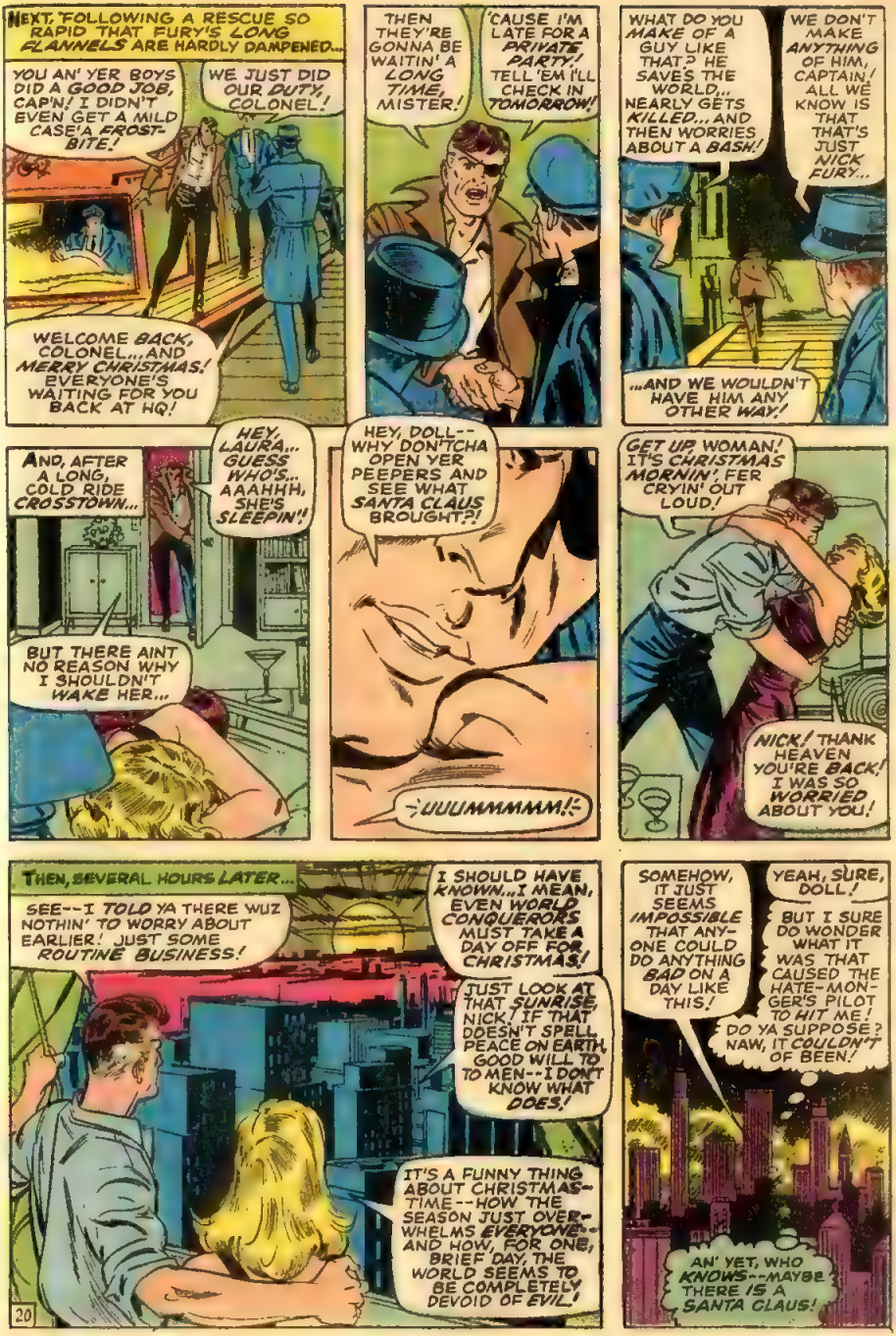
IT DID! IT MUST'VE! ALL THAT'S LEFT'A THE HEAP THEY PUT ME IN IS THE PILOT'S POD!
THE GERMS'LL SPREAD OUT AND DIE IN THE THIN OXYGEN UP HERE--BUT THAT STILL DON'T TELL ME HOW TO SAVE MY OWN HIDE!
GOTTA DO SOME FAST THINKIN', OR SHIELD'LL BE LOOKIN' FOR A NEW BOSS TOMORROW!
WHILE, ABOARD THE SECOND OBSERVATION CRAFT...
THE BOMB EXPLODED ON COLLISION... TOO HIGH TO BE EFFECTIVE!
THE ATTACK IS A FAILURE--BUT AT LEAST FURY WILL STILL DIE!
SINCE THIS BABY WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT TO BE PILOTED--THERE'S GOTTA BE AN EJECTOR BUTTON!
YEAH...THERE IT IS! NOW, IF I CAN JUST TRIP IT WITH MY FOOT...
GOT IT!
FOOF!
WORKED THE ROPES LOOSE...AN' FOUND A MANUAL 'CHUTE!
NOW, HERE'S HOPING I LAND SOME-PLACE SOFT!
LOOKS LIKE I'M HEADIN' FOR THE EAST RIVER...
IT'LL BE COLD... BUT AT LEAST IT'S BETTER'N THE TOP'A THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDIN'!
THEN, AS THE SHIELD STALWART FLOATS GENTLY TOWARD HIS ICY LANDING PLACE...
JUST A LITTLE MORE AN' I'LL BE DOWN! JUST HOPE THAT BOAT COMIN' SPOTS ME BEFORE I FREEZE!
THERE HE IS! RIGHT ON THE SPOT SHIELD HQ SAID HE'D LAND! GET THIS TUB ROLLIN'!
HE WON'T LAST IN THAT WATER MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS...SO WE GOTTA BE RIGHT THERE WHEN HE HITS!


NEXT, FOLLOWING A RESCUE SO RAPID THAT FURY'S LONG FLANNELS ARE HARDLY DAMPENED...
YOU AN' YER BOYS DID A GOOD JOB, CAP'N! I DIDN'T EVEN GET A MILD CASE'A FROST-BITE!
WE JUST DID OUR DUTY, COLONEL!
WELCOME BACK, COLONEL... AND MERRY CHRISTMAS! EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR YOU BACK AT HQ!
THEN THEY'RE GONNA BE WAITIN' A LONG TIME, MISTER!
'CAUSE I'M LATE FOR A PRIVATE PARTY! TELL 'EM I'LL CHECK IN TOMORROW!
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF A GUY LIKE THAT? HE SAVES THE WORLD... NEARLY GETS KILLED... AND THEN WORRIES ABOUT A BASH!
WE DON'T MAKE ANYTHING OF HIM, CAPTAIN! ALL WE KNOW IS THAT THAT'S JUST NICK FURY...
...AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE HIM ANY OTHER WAY!
AND, AFTER A LONG, COLD RIDE CROSSTOWN...
HEY, LAURA... GUESS WHO'S... AAAHHH, SHE'S SLEEPIN'!
BUT THERE AINT NO REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T WAKE HER...
HEY, DOLL-- WHY DON'TCHA OPEN YER PEEPERS AND SEE WHAT SANTA CLAUS BROUGHT?!
-UUUMMMMM!-
GET UP, WOMAN! IT'S CHRISTMAS MORNIN'! FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
NICK! THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE BACK! I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
THEN, SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
SEE--I TOLD YA THERE WUZ NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT EARLIER! JUST SOME ROUTINE BUSINESS!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN... I MEAN, EVEN WORLD CONQUERORS MUST TAKE A DAY OFF FOR CHRISTMAS!
JUST LOOK AT THAT SUNRISE, NICK! IF THAT DOESN'T SPELL PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO TO MEN--I DON'T KNOW WHAT DOES!
IT'S A FUNNY THING ABOUT CHRISTMAS-TIME--HOW THE SEASON JUST OVER-WHELMS EVERYONE-- AND HOW, FOR ONE, BRIEF DAY, THE WORLD SEEMS TO BE COMPLETELY DEVOID OF EVIL!
SOMEHOW, IT JUST SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE THAT ANY-ONE COULD DO ANYTHING BAD ON A DAY LIKE THIS!
YEAH, SURE, DOLL!
BUT I SURE DO WONDER WHAT IT WAS THAT CAUSED THE HATE-MON-GER'S PILOT TO HIT ME! DO YA SUPPOSE? NAW, IT COULDN'T OF BEEN!
AN' YET, WHO KNOWS--MAYBE THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS!
20

BRILLIANT BITS OF BLOCK-BUSTING BOMBAST STRAIGHT FROM YOUR BLUSHIN' BULLPEN!

DIDJA KNOW? The already-classic wedding of Hank and Jan (Goliath and the Wasp) in THE AVENGERS last ish was written by RASCALLY ROY while on his own Caribbean honeymoon! Looks like fearless Forbush may be replaced by cuddly Cupid if we don't watch out!

DIDJA KNOW? Merry MARIE SEVERIN just has to be "Miss Versatile of 1968"! She did such a great job pinch-hitting as Sub-Mariner's penciller when Big JOHN BUSCEMA took a vacation that she ended up as ol' Wet-Head's newest illustrator, to give the big guy more time for the AVENGERS and the sensational SILVER SURFER! Marie's also one of the finest cartoon humorists on the scene today, as evinced by her side-splitting covers and strips in NOT BRAND ECHH! And, if you could see the sizzling sketches she does of our own Bullpen Bigwigs when they're not looking — like wow! ("There, Marie honey! Isn't all that publicity lots better than the raise you keep clamoring for?" — Sinister Stan.)

DIDJA KNOW? Everyone's talking about Bashful BARRY SMITH, the surprising new staffer we just imported from merrie old England! Barry's artwork is just not to be believed! This young, long-haired, titanically talented Britisher has a style which combines the pulse-pounding power of JACK (King) KIRBY with the off-beat improvisations of Jaunty JIM STERANKO! You've gotta see it to believe it! And see it you will, in X-MEN #53 and an upcoming issue of SHIELD! Let us know which other strips you'd like him to tackle, 'cause we're anxious to see how your opinions compare with ours!

DIDJA KNOW? Darlin' DICK AYERS was getting battle fatigue from an endless diet of SGT. FURY and CAPTAIN SAVAGE, so we decided to give Old Faithful a break. We switched strips between him and Dazzlin' DONNIE HECK — which means Don will be ramroddin' CAP SAVAGE for a spell while Dick sinks his teeth into CAPTAIN MARVEL . . . and we think all you frantic ones are gonna flip over the unexpected results!

DIDJA KNOW? We've sort of lost count, but in the past few months mighty Marvel has been written up in the top newspapers and magazines of Canada, France, England, Italy, Mexico, and almost every other literary-minded nation in the free world. But the most frustrating part about the whole thing is — as in the case of Sweden's Goteborgs-Posten, which has been printing a fabulous series of articles about us — we don't know what half of them say — 'cause we haven't the time to translate 'em! Anyway, what's the diff — as long as they mention our names!

DIDJA KNOW? (Here's some fast ones for you —) Wondrous WERNER ROTH was one of Marvel's top Western and romance artists, B.X. (Before X-Men). We're still waiting to see him draw a curvy chick kissing a horse while fighting Magneto! . . . GEORGIE (Porgie) KLEIN, our invincible inker, is one of America's top watercolor artists, as is MORRIE (not Morris!) KURAMOTO, Jolly Solly's production pal! . . . When Lovable LINDA FITE gives Stan that mountain of mail to read each day, her laconic little comments, caustically crayoned in the margins, are usually the most hilarious part of the whole shtick! . . . Hey! Guess who's replacing Ravishin' ROBIN GREEN as the latest Bullpen Girl Friday? None other than Joyful JEAN THOMAS, the Rascally One's lovely new bride! What a way to prolong a honeymoon! . . . Notice how habit-forming the artwork of Happy HOWARD PURCELL can be? Since he's taken over the Watcher yarn which rounds out our spellbinding SILVER SURFER mag, we wonder how we ever got along without him! Howie still teaches art in his spare time, so poor Smiley has to think twice before trying to make like an editor! And, by the way, no matter how you slice it, THE SILVER SURFER is probably the biggest smash hit in comic mag publishing since the still-supreme F.F. — just as you knew it would be!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, students! The subject of today's swingin' seminar will be "Where Do You Nuts Get Your Ideas?" That question is asked of Yours Truly at lectures, interviews, and bull sessions more often than any other. So, let's kick it around for Marveldom Assembled. The point is, ideas are no problem. Here in the Bullpen, we can't talk to each other for five minutes without coming up with a zillion new thoughts and angles. The big hangup is getting the time to develop the ideas . . . to polish them, and refine them until we feel they'll have maximum impact — until we know they'll be an integral part of the ubiquitous Marvel universe! Everyone has ideas — you, I, the gang in the mail-room — even our competitors, bless 'em. What really counts is what you DO with them. We believe that almost any idea can be worthwhile, if it's presented with integrity, taste, and imagination. For, an idea is like a guitar — it doesn't mean a thing unless you know how to use it!

Excelsior,
Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #84: At last! The return of Dr. Doom — with a cameo guest appearance by Nick Fury! And wait'll you see the sights of Latveria!

SPIDER-MAN #70: The Kingpin escapes! Spidey is finally cornered by the law! And that's only the start of the action ahead!

AVENGERS #61: Doc Strange — the Black Knight — and a pair of the most mind-staggering menaces of all time! A Marvel landmark ish!

X-MEN #53: From the Negative Zone comes . . . Blastaar! Our mighty mutants have never been mightier — or more desperate!

DAREDEVIL #49: Is this the end of DD? Will the man without fear really drop out? And what about the mad machine created to kill *him*?

THOR #161: It finally happens! The Thunder God faces Galactus! The Thunder God *battles* Galactus! And you'll never forget the awesome outcome!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #111: Cap and Rick recapture the glory of a bygone era — battling today's most deadly horde! A Lee Steranko triumph!

HULK #113: As if the Sandman isn't dangerous enough, he attacks ol' Greenskin once more — but this time with a pandemonious partner!

IRON MAN #11: Unmasked by the malevolent Mandarin! If you're not a Shellhead booster already, this one'll convert ya! A smash!

SUB-MARINER #11: Who'll be the one to destroy our sub-sea monarch — Cap'n Barracuda, or the US Navy? It's excitement all the way!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #11: A new story line . . . a new, even more powerful Mar-Vell . . . and the outer-space entity called Zo! Prepare to be startled!

DR. STRANGE #178: It had to be! Our mystic master teams up with the Black Knight for a duel-to-the-death with . . . Tiboro!

SGT. FURY #63: "To Die with Honor!" — one of the most off-beat sagas to come out of World War Two! For all battle-mag buffs!

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MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #19: Hero of two worlds . . . of city skylines, and of primeval jungle! Yes, we're talking about Ka-Zar . . . and so will you!

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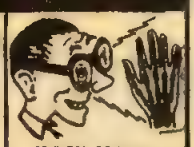

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DON'T YIELD, WRITE S.H.I.E.L.D.

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Dear Stan,

Recent NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. stories have been too transistorized, that is, too gadget-ridden. I have made some steps for your return to glory. First, simply bring back Steranko. His greatness is unmatched and I have been dying for his artwork and his stories. Second stress (you have been doing a good job so far): Fury's independence and steel-like nerves to prepare him for number three. Third and last, isolate him. Not the same get-rid-of-S.H.I.E.L.D. routine, but a brief departure. As we have seen, Fury works best alone. So here is my suggestion; have you guys ever seen that great TV show "The Prisoner"? It gives the character the isolation I'm looking for. For a few issues, Nick could be stranded with super-scientific questioning types such as he usually gets involved with. I hope I have touched your mind, and before I forget, Hang Loose!

Eric Knight, 573 E. 3rd St.
Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

Never fear, Eric — this is about as loose-hangin' a Bullpen as you'll see this side of the World Champion Detroit Tigers! But thanks for the suggestion. We dug the "Prisoner" show ourself, but we try not to copy (at least consciously) any other series' fantastic features. Besides, we thought some of our nutty plots and spine-chilling chases were already as confused and Kafka-esque as they come — at least, that's what you frantic ones keep tellin' us!

Dear Stan,

Less than a year ago I began reading Marvel Comics and buy just about every one a month. It probably looks funny seeing a boy of 16 pull out a dollar from his pocket to buy 8 comics. Well, anyway, I feel your comic series S.H.I.E.L.D. is the best and has the best art . . . that is really why I buy comic books, for the art. What I want to know is why couldn't you get "Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D." on TV, not as a cartoon show, but as an adult TV show? What do you think? I say it would probably do pretty well!

Tom Rutten, 5009-241 S. W.
Mountain Lake Terrace, Wash. 90043

We'd like to think so ourselves, Tommy, but it's pretty well acknowledged that the heyday of the super-spy thriller is past, at least on TV! Still, ol' Nick has already outlasted "I Spy" and a couple of guys from UNCLE, and looks like he might outlive the redoubtable "Get Smart" series itself. If he lasts long enough, who knows — the whole cycle might just start up again, and we'll be right here waiting, our contract-signing pencils at the ready! 'Nuff said!

col nick fury . . . director of s.h.i.e.l.d. . . .

you have take the responsibility . . . stop . . . you have proven your capabilities . . . stop . . . i commend you on your excellent progress . . . stop . . . you have defeated the hordes of hydra . . . stop . . . as depicted by jim steranko you have against interminable odds vanquished the yellow claw . . . stop . . . you along with your squad in world war two defeated innumerable nazis and several nips . . . stop . . . you have through these experiences only had one permanent physical mishap . . . that being your left eye . . . during an experiment you succumbed to a severe injury about the head . . . stop . . . hydra said that you must die but you eradicated their main hq and ninety-nine percent of their men in less than a minute . . . stop . . . you smashed the druid as if it were an everyday task . . . stop . . . you put them and their subsidiary named aim aside in nearly the same manner . . . stop . . . you destroyed an entire natural island laden with millions of tons of scientific equipment . . . stop . . . in your latest encounter with evil you killed some more nazis . . . stop . . . unfortunately you must die without question . . . have ordained that it be so . . . stop . . . you shall feel mine awesome vengeance . . . stop . . . at last the day shall some . . . the day of scorpio . . . end of message.

stan lee and jim steranko . . .

you have presented to the public stories far above mere excellence . . . stop . . . it may interest you to know that i really was born under the sign of the scorpion . . . stop . . . i may be scorpio in the same way that doctor doom is kang . . . stop . . . before this letter concludes it is necessary once more to remind you . . . stop . . . bring back the marvelous magneto . . . to remind you . . . bring back the marvelous magneto . . . end of message.

richard kimble . . . md. . . . eighteen twenty three w shannon spokane . . . washington . . . nine nine two oh five

richard kimble eh . . . stop . . . we kinda wondered what you had been doing since you lost your tv series . . . stop . . . but keep sending us those interesting telegrams . . . stop . . . don't stop . . . stop.

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F.F.F. (FEARLESS FRONT FACER) –AN HONORARY TITLE BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

Gentlemen:

A letter or two in S.H.I.E.L.D. #6 complained about the lack of "continuity" between Fury of the 40's and Fury of the 60's. I'm surprised. In the origin of Fury with S.H.I.E.L.D. he states that he was still a "three-striper" at heart. This is true. In #5 he confronts a person who is unbothered by a) exploding gasoline, b) two 50 caliber machine guns, c) nova shells, and cannons, and yet Fury still figures, "What the Sam Hill, I'll hit 'im with the car!" . . . People complain that Fury shaves and dresses well. After wearing nothing but fatigues and being unable to shave on long missions for 4 long, war-torn, death-drenched years, I would think he'd enjoy being civilized. Those who complain he is incapable of being civilized should recall Pam Hawley began to put a civilized veneer on him before she was killed. In her memory, Nick has learned to submerge his tougher side when in a non-combat situation. He can relate to people as well as make command decisions. He fights a more complex battle against tyranny and chaos because the wars and causes are more complex and less straight forward than they were when he ramrodded a Ranger squad. People complain that Dum Dum isn't around much. He's there, but remember the mag is *NICK FURY*, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D., so naturally the stories deal mainly with him. As for Sitwell, he's on detail to Tony Stark. As for complaints about Val — what, are you *nuts*? I was surprised she replaced Laura Brown as present day love interest, but now I'm glad. She is a mature person — intelligent and beautiful. And — if page 5 of ish #2 and pages 1 & 2 of #5 are any indication — Fury's relationship to Val, though an outgrowth of his with Pam, has gone far deeper than his war-time love. With Val he has achieved the quiet oneness he wanted with Pam, so naturally she takes up his time and thoughts. The characters, the stories, and the art have all matured and reflect the time they represent. I have a complete set of Sarge Fury and find he reflects the '40's perfectly — especially with Severin at the fore. Steranko embodies the innovating '60's with its eyes both on the future and change and on the nostalgic past of Saturday matinees and *The SPIDER, Master of Men* on the newsstands. (Sorry 'bout this being more than a page, bleary-eyed Bullpen buddies!!) Since Steranko is the best thing going at Marvel and the one person to capture the essence of the times in which he works, I am saddened by what looks like a trend of alternating the Steranko-Steranko team with others. Also, I'd like to see the origin of S.H.I.E.L.D. which appeared to be very well established long before Fury took over in the origin of his association with the organization. Who was the first head of S.H.I.E.L.D., how did he create the scientifically advanced and altrustic organization, and how had he known Fury to choose him as his successor? . . . I hope that you can maintain S.H.I.E.L.D. at the high level Steranko has brought it with his great graphics. . . . You keep publishing great stuff and I'll keep buying it — who could ask for more?

Dick Glass, 885 Levering, Apt. 303
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024

We could, Dick! Frankly, we won't rest until we surpass even the high standards set by Jim Steranko himself! And we'll be giving out with more phantasmagorical facts about the founding of Shield itself in future issues, so bear with us — the best, we hope, is yet to come! Excelsior!

Dear Stan and Jim,

For several months now I have been following Nick Fury in S.H.I.E.L.D., and I think the time is ripe to communicate some of my conclusions. Jim Steranko, sir, you are a mad genius. The middle panel of page 4 in #3 demonstrates a sensitive feeling for narrative layouts, and the battle scene on pages 9 to 11 shows off your cinematic style capably. Including Kirby and Adkins you, sir, are Marvel's most imaginative artist. Unfortunately you lack the discipline and feel for continuity of Kirby and the clarity of other writers. Stan, sir, I feel that you must be held to account for giving this undeniably talented artist too much freedom too early. I understand why it is easy to leave it alone, because my first reaction to Steranko's work was that any tampering would eliminate the faults and take the shine off the brilliant moments. I no longer feel that way. I enjoy the way S.H.I.E.L.D. has developed an individual style (though I deplore the semi-retirement of Sitwell, Gabe, and Dum Dum) but it is clear that Steranko simply does not have a mature writing style. The last half dozen stories have fallen apart in continuity invariably at some point, and the plots, while adequate, are not of the usual Marvel type — to many imaginary or dream plots, too much cribbing from Doyle or science fiction. Forgive the slashing criticism. Your work is worth saving. #3 and other recent issues have had the most brilliant splash panels and covers of any recent works. #3 deteriorates in almost every way from the inspired genius on pages 1-4 to professionalism on 4-11 to competence on 12-17 to uninspired talkativeness on page 18 to complete cop-out of a printed text on page 19 to amateurish bad handling of unnecessary and undramatic coincidence on page 20. Well, the fifth act of Shakespeare's plays aren't always so hot, but I'd like you to do even better than usual. Please live up to your promise, Jim; and Stan, amid the plethora of new titles you're bringing out, please find time to sharpen to perfection one of your most imaginative old ones.

Paul Sanford, 1443 Ave. 49
Los Angeles, Calif.

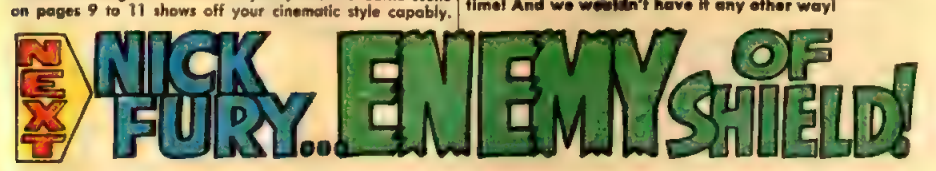
We're working at it, Paul! — and the massive majority of comments on recent issues of SHIELD seem to indicate that we're succeeding, with the awesome aid of Frank Springer! As for Jim, we've moved the Jaunty One on to newer, even loftier heights as the illustrator of our ever-popular CAPTAIN AMERICA series — where he and smilin' Stan are co-creating some of the greatest instant classics on the contemporary comics scene! (And, lest you think we're trying to overlook your cogent criticisms, Mr. S., rest assured that Stan and Jim have taken them to heart. And a guy named Shakespeare stopped by the office and asked us to tell ya that he'll work harder in the future to improve these fifth acts! Okay, California?)

Dear Stan,

Since the introduction of Jim Steranko to the Bullpen, the covers of S.H.I.E.L.D. have been nothing less than mind-shattering and colossal! His few cracks at doing the inside artwork were dazzling. S.H.I.E.L.D. and Steranko were the greatest things to hit Marveldom since Irving Forbush(?). I was more than satisfied to read S.H.I.E.L.D. at least five times and still not be bored, for the artwork was stupendous. When Jim began to do only the covers, the art was well continued by Frank Springer. Frank is marvelous, no? Springer has outdone himself. Steranko's take-off on Salvador Dali was superb, and the inside was even better. I would certainly like to shake the hand of the guy who does the layouts — and give him a no-prize. Marvel certainly deserves all the praise it gets and most times little of the criticism, which is half on picayune matters that stack up to nothing when compared to the over-all comics. Make mine Marvel 'til Nick isn't smoking cigars anymore.

Charles Shamonsky, 2306 Grafton Street
District Height, Md. 90028

Then you, lad, are gonna be with us a long, looonnng time! And we wouldn't have it any other way!



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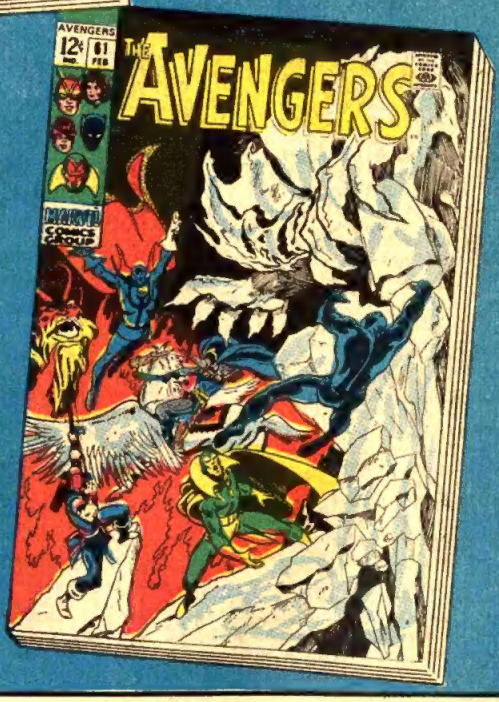

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Some of the people the Famous Artists have helped

Carl Kock was an 18-year-old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—recently he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Kathleen Gironda of Indiana, Pennsylvania, was an 18-year-old salesgirl in a department store. She still works for a department store, but now it's as an advertising artist and fashion illustrator.

With Famous Artists training James Ryan, formerly a clerk, has become an illustrator at Hughes Aircraft—and turns out a steady stream of well-paying free-lance artwork in his spare time.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art work shop, does portraits.

A plan to help others

It started over 18 years ago when a group of America's most successful artists—men like Albert Dorne, Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb, Al Parker and Stevan Dohanos—met in New York City. They knew that all over America there were people who liked to draw who could be turned into good artists. Albert Dorne asked, "Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

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